

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A proprietary communication protocol is used in a system controller that includes an application controller and a plurality of applications for controlling a plurality of device controllers on a control network by using data relating to system points that correspond to data variables in the network. The protocol communicates a plurality of predefined messages between the application controller and the applications for instructing the application controller to perform a function relating to a select system point, and for reporting to the applications in response to the instructions. The protocol includes a message identification field for identifying a select message from the plurality of messages; and a protocol identification field for identifying the select message as being transmitted via the proprietary communication protocol.